

JOURNAL
OF THE
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
OF
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

THIRD SESSION OF THE TWENTIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, February 26, 1857.

THE House having, by several Proclamations hereto annexed, been prorogued until this day, then to meet for the dispatch of business ;

And being met—

A Message from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, by Henry Palmer, Esquire, Usher of the Black Rod :

Mr. Speaker ;

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor commands the immediate attendance of this Honorable House at the Bar of the Council Chamber.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker and the House went up to attend His Excellency in the Council Chamber ;

And being returned—

Mr. Speaker reported, that when the House did attend His Excellency this day in the Council Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Legislature, of which Mr. Speaker said he had, to prevent mistakes, obtained a copy, and which was read by the Clerk, and is as follows :—

Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council :

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :

I have much pleasure in again meeting you for the discharge of the important duties that devolve upon us.

It affords me much satisfaction to be enabled to inform you of the favourable determination of Her Majesty's Government with reference to the suggestion contained in your joint Address of last Session to the Queen, on the subject of a guarantee by Her Majesty's Government for such a Loan as might be sufficient for the purchase of Township Lands in this Island, with a view to the more speedy and general conversion of Leaseholds into Freehold tenures.

The Despatches from the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, on this subject, shall be communicated to you, and a measure will be submitted for your consideration, in order to secure to the industrious inhabitants of this Island the benefits which have been thus placed within your reach by the paternal solicitude of Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :

The condition of the Revenue is satisfactory, and indicates general prosperity among the consuming population of the Island.

The Accounts for the past year, and the Estimates for the current year, shall be laid before you ; and I rely on your